

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-34 remain pending in the application.

Drawings

Fig. 1 is objected to as failing to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), because Fig. 1 is not designated as Prior Art. In response, replacement sheets of the Drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are attached hereinwith. Accordingly, the objection to Fig. 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims Objections

The numbering of the claims is objected to as failing to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.126. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 18-33 have been renumbered as claims 19-34. Accordingly, the objections of claims should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 112

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected as being indefinite. In response, the subject matter of claims 33 and 34 have been amended and are now believed to be definite. Accordingly, the indefiniteness rejection of claims 33 and 34 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102

Claims 13-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Takaki (US 5,099,458). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Takaki fails to disclose a multistatic sonar system comprising: an emitter base comprising means for emission of sonar pulses and means for transmitting mode information, and a receiving base comprising means of reception and of processing of sonar echoes. Takaki merely discloses a monostatic sonar system, which transmits

sound waves, as well as receiving an echo (See, for example Fig. 1a of Takaki). Takaki's system is used and mounted on a fishing net. According to Takaki, the received echoes are transmitted through an acoustic communication link to a second separate base, and the second separate base displays the echoes received by the first base (See, for example, Fig. 1b of Takaki). Takaki's sonar system and the separate base are different from the multistatic system as recited in claim 13.

As described in the specification of the present application, the claimed multistatic system comprises means allowing all of the receiving bases to determine when and how a transmission occurs. That is the reason why the emitter base of the multistatic sonar system, according to the claimed invention, comprises means to transmit the mode information.

In addition, Takaki fails to disclose "the mode information is transmitted to the receiver base in acoustic form by an appraisal pulse, said appraisal pulse being modulated by a signal containing said mode information." The appraisal pulse transmitted by the emitter base, according to the claimed invention, is modulated by a signal containing the mode information. Takaki fails to disclose such modulation of the appraisal pulse, because such pulse is not necessary in a monostatic sonar system.

Based on the above reasons, Takaki fails to disclose all of the limitation of claim 13, in particular, "an emitter base comprising means for emission of sonar pulses and means for transmitting mode information, and a receiving base comprising means of reception and of processing of sonar echoes" and "the mode information is transmitted to the receiver base in acoustic form by an appraisal pulse, said appraisal pulse being modulated by a signal containing said mode information". Accordingly, the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn.

Claims 14-34 recite additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 13 as well as on their own merits.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kenneth M. Berner".

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